

# State Elections Enforcement Commission

## Citizens' Election Program



Press Release

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### STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION ANNOUNCES SPECIAL ELECTION GRANTS

HARTFORD, CT – January 13, 2016 – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) voted at its January 13 regular meeting to approve public grant payments under the Citizens' Election Program (“CEP”) for candidates in the February 2, 2016 special election in the 121<sup>st</sup> House District.

The Commission determined that state representative candidates Susan Barksdale (R – 121<sup>st</sup> District) and Joseph Gresko (D – 121<sup>st</sup> District) were eligible for full special election grants. The candidates qualified for special election grants in the amount of \$20,887.50.

The CEP is a voluntary program which allows qualifying candidates for General Assembly and statewide offices to receive full public financing in regular and special elections. To qualify for public campaign financing, candidates must demonstrate they have adequate support from the public. In special elections, candidates for state representative accomplish this by raising \$3,750 from at least 113 individuals residing in municipalities in their districts. Candidates for state senate accomplish this by raising \$11,250 from at least 225 individuals residing in municipalities in their districts. There are additional requirements for minor party candidates and petitioning candidates.

Participating candidates may only accept small dollar contributions from certain individuals—the maximum contribution is \$100—and no contributions from state contractors or PACs.

The CEP was designed, in part, to reduce the influence of special interests in state politics. In its eighth year of providing public funding to General Assembly candidates, the CEP continues to provide a seawall against the rising tide of special interest money in today's elections.

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